

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8 and 17 are currently being amended.

On page 2 of the Office Action, it is indicated that claims 13-16 have been canceled. Although claims 13-16 have been withdrawn, they are not canceled and should not be indicated as such. Claim 12 has also been withdrawn from consideration.

In addition, Applicant requests that the Examiner fully acknowledge Applicant's claim for convention priority.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-12 and 17-20 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Although not listed, claims 8 and 17 were presumably rejected under the same paragraph as these claims were identified elsewhere in the rejection.

In the rejection, it was asserted that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the respective content” in claims 1, 8, and 17. Applicant has amended these claims to remove the term “respective,” and the term “the content” has clear antecedent basis in the claim.

It was also asserted that the phrase “setting information defining display methods” rendered claims 1, 8 and 17 indefinite. Applicant has amended claims 1, 8 and 17 to recite “setting information defining display methods on a user's interface.” Applicant submits that this amended phrase is definite.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Ying et al.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ying et al. (U.S. Published Application No. 2003/0179223). Claim 1, as amended, recites that a content management apparatus comprises first acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a first storage device connected to a first network that complies with a first communication protocol, second acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a second storage device connected to a second network that complies with a second communication protocol different with the first communication protocol, and sorting means for, when creating list information of the content stored in the first and second storage devices using the content information acquired by the first and second acquiring means and displaying the list information in a unified format, executing sort processing of the list information according to setting information defining display methods on a user's interface.

Ying discloses a data processing system 10 including a central server 12 configured to obtain data from various data sources 18, reformat the data for display within the displays of handheld devices, and server the reformatted data to handheld devices 14 via docking stations 16 (par. [0025]). Ying further discloses a GUI control 163 that, when activated by a user, is configured to display a list of important categories of clinical tests for a patient, as shown by pop-up list 200 in Fig. 12 (par. [0054]). When GUI control 164 is activated, a user is returned to GUI 130, and when GUI control 165 is activated, a listing 230 of clinical test results for a patient is listed (pars. [0055-0056]).

In contrast to claim 1, Ying fails to disclose or suggest first acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a first storage device connected to a first network that complies with a first communication protocol, and second acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a second storage device connected to a second network that complies with a second

communication protocol different with the first communication protocol. Rather, Ying collects data from a single network (central server 12) that complies with a single communication protocol.

Ying also fails to disclose or suggest sorting means for, when creating list information of the content stored in the first and second storage devices using the content information acquired by the first and second acquiring means and displaying the list information in a unified format, executing sort processing of the list information according to setting information defining display methods on a user's interface. In particular, Ying does not disclose or suggest executing any sort processing according to setting information that defines how the information is displayed on a user's interface.

Accordingly, for all of these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Ying.

B. Grimes et al.

Claims 1-12 and 17-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Grimes et al. (U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0057297). Like Ying, Grimes fails to disclose or suggest first acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a first storage device connected to a first network that complies with a first communication protocol, and second acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a second storage device connected to a second network that complies with a second communication protocol different with the first communication protocol. Rather, Grimes discloses acquiring content from multiple sources but from the same network using the same communication protocol.

Grimes also fails to disclose or suggest sorting means for, when creating list information of the content stored in the first and second storage devices using the content information acquired by the first and second acquiring means and displaying the list information in a unified format, executing sort processing of the list information according to setting information defining display methods on a user's interface. Although Grimes discloses a filtering technique related to content, Grimes merely discloses sorting of content into various categories (see [0043]), but not sort processing according to setting information that defines how the information is displayed on a user's interface.

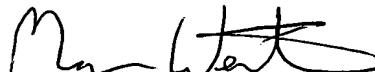
Accordingly, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Grimes. Claims 2-7 are also patentably distinguishable from Grimes by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, as well as their additional recitations. Claims 8-11 and 17-20 are patentably distinguishable from Grimes for reasons analogous to claim 1.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 1/3/2007 By 

(Jan. 2, 2007-Fed. Gov. closed for Gerald Ford funeral)

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